
***Proposed Resource Management Plan and
Final Environmental Impact Statement***

Bighorn Basin Resource Management Plan Revision Project

Appendix S

Lands with Wilderness Characteristics

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APPENDIX S

LANDS WITH WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS

When evaluating lands with wilderness characteristics, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) utilizes BLM Manual 6310 - Conducting Wilderness Characteristics Inventory of BLM Lands and BLM Manual 6320 - Considering Lands with Wilderness Characteristics in the BLM Land Use Planning Process. The BLM is also currently referencing Instruction Memorandum (IM) No. 2013-106, Additional Guidance Regarding Public and Cooperating Agency Involvement in and Access to Wilderness Characteristics Inventory Information and the Land Use Planning Process. The BLM Cody and Worland Field Offices updated the Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Inventory in 2011 to respond to additional information. The current forms for evaluating Lands with Wilderness Characteristics are provided on the following pages.

Based on identified resource conflicts and the need to prioritize other resource uses, *the BLM has not proposed to manage inventoried lands with wilderness characteristics specifically for naturalness, outstanding opportunities for solitude, and primitive and unconfined recreation under the Proposed Resource Management Plan (RMP)*. The rationale for these proposals by inventoried unit is available in Table S-1.

1.0 EVALUATION OF CURRENT CONDITIONS

- 1) Document and review any existing BLM wilderness characteristics inventory findings on file regarding the presence or absence of individual wilderness characteristics, using Form 1, below.
- 2) Consider relevant information regarding current conditions available in the office. Identify and describe any changes to the existing inventory information. Use interdisciplinary team knowledge, aerial photographs, field observations, maps, etc., and document the findings on Form 2, below. Document current conditions regarding wilderness characteristics, as opposed to potential future conditions.
- 3) Conduct field reviews as necessary to verify information and to ascertain current conditions. Reach conclusions on current conditions including boundaries, size of areas and presence or absence of wilderness characteristics. Fully explain the basis for each conclusion on Form 2, including any critical differences between BLM and citizen information.
- 4) Document the findings regarding current conditions for each inventoried area. Describe how the present conditions are similar to, or have changed from, the conditions documented in the original wilderness characteristics inventory. Document the findings on Form 2 for each inventory area. Cite to or attach data considered, including photographs, maps, GIS layers, field trip notes, project files, etc.

2.0 FORM 1

DOCUMENTATION OF BLM WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORY FINDINGS FROM PREVIOUS INVENTORY ON RECORD

1. Is there existing BLM wilderness characteristics inventory information on all or part of this area?

No _____ (Go to Form 2) Yes _____ (If yes, and if more than one area is within the area, list the unique identifiers for those areas.):

a) Inventory Source: _____

b) Inventory Area Unique Identifier(s): _____

c) Map Name(s)/Number(s): _____

d) BLM District(s)/Field Office(s): _____

2. BLM Inventory Findings on Record:

Existing inventory information regarding wilderness characteristics (if more than one BLM inventory area is associated with the area, list each area and answer each question individually for each inventory area):

a) Inventory Source: _____

Area Unique Identifier	Sufficient Size? Yes/No (acres)	Naturalness? Yes/No	Outstanding Solitude? Yes/No	Outstanding Primitive & Unconfined Recreation? Yes/No	Supplemental Values? Yes/No

3.0 FORM 2**CURRENT CONDITIONS: PRESENCE OR ABSENCE OF WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS**

Area Unique Identifier _____ Acreage _____
(If the inventory area consists of subunits, list the acreage of each and evaluate each separately).

In completing steps (1)-(5), use additional space as necessary.

(1) Is the area of sufficient size? (If the area meets one of the exceptions to the size criterion, check “Yes” and describe the exception in the space provided below),

Yes _____ No _____

Note: If “No” is checked the area does not have wilderness characteristics; check “N/A” for the remaining questions below.

Description (describe the boundaries of the area--wilderness inventory roads, property lines, etc.):

(2) Does the area appear to be natural?

Yes _____ No _____ N/A _____

Note: If “No” is checked the area does not have wilderness characteristics; check “N/A” for the remaining questions below.

Description (include land ownership, location, topography, vegetation, and summary of major human uses/activities):

(3) Does the area (or the remainder of the area if a portion has been excluded due to unnaturalness and the remainder is of sufficient size) have outstanding opportunities for solitude?

Yes _____ No _____ N/A _____

Description (describe the area’s outstanding opportunities for solitude):

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(4) Does the area (or the remainder of the area if a portion has been excluded due to unnaturalness and the remainder is of sufficient size) have outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation?

Yes _____ No _____ N/A _____

Note: If “No” is checked for both 3 and 4 the area does not have wilderness characteristics; check “N/A” for question 5.

Description (describe the area’s outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation):

(5) Does the area have supplemental values (ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic or historical value)?

Yes _____ No _____ N/A _____

Description:

SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS*

Area Unique Identifier: _____

Summary

Results of analysis:

(Note: Explain the inventory findings for the entirety of the inventory unit. When wilderness characteristics have been identified in an area that is smaller than the size of the total inventory unit, explain why certain portions of the inventory unit are not included within the lands with wilderness characteristics (e.g., the inventory found that certain parts lacked naturalness).

1. Does the area meet any of the size requirements? ____ Yes ____ No

2. Does the area appear to be natural? ____ Yes ____ No ____ N/A

3. Does the area offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation? ____ Yes ____ No ____ N/A

4. Does the area have supplemental values? ____ Yes ____ No ____ N/A

Check one:

☐ The area, or a portion of the area, has wilderness characteristics and is identified as lands with wilderness characteristics.

☐ The area does not have wilderness characteristics.

Prepared by (team members):

(Name, Title, Date)

Reviewed by (District or Field Manager):

Name: _____ **Title:** _____

Date: _____

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**This form documents information that constitutes an inventory finding on wilderness characteristics. It does not represent a formal land use allocation or a final agency decision subject to administrative remedies under either 43 CFR parts 4 or 1610.5-3.*

4.0 ROUTE ANALYSIS¹

(Factors to consider when determining whether a route is a road² for wilderness characteristics inventory purposes.)

Wilderness Characteristics Inventory Area Unique Identifier: _____

Route or Route Segment³ Name and/or Identifier: _____

(Include Transportation Plan Identifier, if known, and include route number supplied by citizen information, when available.)

I. LOCATION

Refer to attached map _____ and BLM corporate data (GIS). List photo point references (where applicable) or reference attached photo log.

Describe: _____

II. ROUTE CONTEXT

A. Current Purpose⁴ (if any) of Route: (Examples: Rangeland/Livestock Improvements [stock tank, developed spring, reservoir, fence, corral], Inholdings [ranch, farmhouse], Mine Site, Concentrated Use Site [camp site], Recreation, Utilities [transmission line, telephone, pipeline], Administrative [project maintenance, communication site, vegetation treatment]).

¹ This form documents information that constitutes an inventory finding on wilderness characteristics. It does not represent a formal land use allocation or a final agency decision subject to administrative remedies under either 43 CFR parts 4 or 1610.5-3.

² Road: An access route which has been improved and maintained by mechanical means to insure relatively regular and continuous use. A way maintained solely by the passage of vehicles does not constitute a road.

- Improved and maintained – Actions taken physically by people to keep the road open to vehicle traffic. “Improved” does not necessarily mean formal construction. “Maintained” does not necessarily mean annual maintenance.
- Mechanical means – Use of hand or power machinery or tools.
- Relatively regular and continuous use – Vehicular use that has occurred and will continue to occur on a relatively regular basis. Examples are: access roads for equipment to maintain a stock water tank or other established water sources, access roads to maintained recreation sites or facilities, or access roads to mining claims.

³ If a portion of a route is found to meet the wilderness inventory road criteria (see Part III) and the remainder does not meet these criteria (e.g., a cherrystem road with a primitive route continuing beyond a certain point), identify each segment and explain the rationale for the separate findings under pertinent criteria.

⁴ The purpose of a route is not a deciding factor in determining whether a route is a road for wilderness characteristics inventory purposes. The purpose of a route does provide context for factors on which such a determination may be based, particularly the question of whether maintenance of the route ensures relatively regular and continuous use. The purpose also helps to determine whether maintenance that may so far have been unnecessary to ensure such use would be approved by BLM when the need arises.

Describe: _____

B. Right-of-Way (ROW):

1. Is there a ROW associated with this route?

Yes ____ No ____ Unknown ____

2. If yes, what is the stated purpose of the ROW? _____

3. Is the ROW still being used for this purpose?

Yes ____ No ____ Unknown or N/A ____

Explain: _____

III. WILDERNESS INVENTORY ROAD CRITERIA

A. Evidence of construction or improvement using mechanical means:

Yes ____ (if either A.1 or A.2 is checked "yes" below) No ____ (if both A.1 and A.2 are checked "no" below)

1. Construction: (Is there evidence that the route or route segment was originally constructed using mechanical means?)

Yes ____ No ____

Examples: Paved ____ Bladed ____ Graveled ____ Roadside Berms ____ Cut/Fill ____ Other ____

Describe: _____

2. Improvements: (Is there evidence of improvements using mechanical means to facilitate access?)

Yes ____ No ____ If "yes": by Hand Tools ____ by Machine ____

Examples: Culverts ____ Hardened Stream Crossings ____ Bridges ____ Drainage ____ Barriers ____ Other ____

Describe: _____

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B. Maintenance: (Is there evidence of maintenance that would ensure relatively regular and continuous use?):

Yes ____ (if either B.1 or B.2 is checked “yes” below) No ____ (if both B.1 and B.2 are checked “no” below)

1. Is there Evidence or Documentation of Maintenance using hand tools or machinery?

Yes ____ No ____ If “yes”: by Hand Tools ____ by Machine ____

Explain: _____

2. If the route or route segment is in good⁵ condition, but there is no evidence of maintenance, would mechanical maintenance with hand tools or machines be approved by BLM to meet the purpose(s) of the route in the event this route became impassable?

Yes ____ No ____

Explain: _____

C. Relatively regular and continuous use: (Does the route or route segment ensure relatively regular and continuous use?)

Yes ____ No ____

Describe evidence (e.g., direct, vehicles or vehicle tracks observed, or indirect, evidence of use associated with purpose of the route such as maintenance of facility that route accesses) and other rationale for whether use has occurred and will continue to occur on a relatively regular basis (i.e., regular and continuous use relative to the purpose(s) of the route).⁶

⁵ Good condition would be a condition that ensures regular and continuous use relative to the purposes of the route. Consider whether the route can be clearly followed in the field over its entire course and whether all or any portion of the route contains any impediments to travel.

⁶ Include estimate of travel rates for the stated purposes, e.g., trips/day or week or month or season or year or even multiple years in some facility maintenance cases.

IV. CONCLUSION

Does the route or route segment⁷ meet the definition of a wilderness inventory road (i.e., are items III.A and III.B and III.C all checked yes)?

Yes ____ = Wilderness Inventory Road

No ____ = Not a road for wilderness inventory purposes

Explanation⁸: _____

Evaluator(s): _____ Date: _____

⁷ If part of the route meets the wilderness inventory road definition and the remainder does not, describe the segment meeting the definition and any remaining portion not meeting the definition and why.

⁸ Describe and explain rationale for any discrepancies with citizen proposals.

Table S-1. Rationale for Not Managing Lands with Wilderness Characteristics for Naturalness, Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude, and Primitive and Unconfined Recreation, by Field Office and Unit

Unit Containing Wilderness Characteristics	Rationale
Worland Field Office	
008 DH	Do not manage for wilderness characteristics in this area due to the current land uses present in the area. Active sand and gravel pit north of area, which may be predicted to head south into the area. There currently are mining claims present, and the potential for future coal bed methane extraction exists in the area.
0016 DH	Do not manage for wilderness characteristics in this area due to the current land uses present in the area. Bentonite potential exists surrounding and within proximity to the area. In addition, approximately 50% of the area is leased for oil and gas.
0048 PR	There is a development potential for Coal Bed Methane; The area is 20% leased, 77% coal. Oil and gas leases are very important for sustaining historic and current land uses, as well as the potential for future CBNG development. The current land uses will conflict with managing for wilderness characteristics.
1536 PR	Do not manage for wilderness characteristics within the area due to potential commercial timber; cultural and wildlife management will indirectly benefit wilderness characteristics. Upon development of the preferred alternative for the Bighorn Basin RMP revision, the entire will be within the Bighorn Master Leasing Plan, which provides for stipulations that will sustain wildlife, recreation, and visual resources which will directly benefit wilderness characteristics.
Owl Creek Subunit 5 (formerly 661 TS)	<p>Presence of Gypsum, uranium and timber in the area. 97% of the area is unavailable to oil and gas leasing. Potential for gypsum and uranium to be mined is low due to terrain and access to the area.</p> <p>The area does contain high quality timber but is not accessible or feasible to logging. However, there is no history of commercial timber in the area because of the access and the difficult terrain would require a cable yarding system. The timber is of high quality but it is not economically available unless the timber market substantially increases. Logging in this area is not foreseeable.</p> <p>However, because the area is 97% unavailable to leasing, is managed under the Owl Creek ACEC, within the Absaroka Front Management Area, has low development potential, and from public comments, the area will not be managed specifically for wilderness characteristics. Upon development of the preferred alternative for the Bighorn Basin RMP revision, the entire will be within the Absaroka Front Master Leasing Plan, which provides for stipulations that will sustain wildlife, recreation related resources, and visual resources which will directly benefit wilderness characteristics. Current and proposed management prescriptions from other resources management prescriptions will benefit wilderness characteristics.</p>
Owl Creek Subunits 1-4 (Formerly Owl Creek CP)	<p>41 % of the area has been identified as Commercial Forest Land, and 31% contains Uranium. Low potential for timber development because of the difficult access in the area as well as the terrain. It is estimated that only 50% of the timber in the area would be accessible because of the terrain. Cost of timber, access, and difficulty of using logging equipment in the area limits the potential of commercial timber. Uranium is a locatable mineral, not leasable. Potential for mining in the area is low due to the terrain and access.</p> <p>Because the area is 97% unavailable to leasing, is managed under the Owl Creek ACEC, within the Absaroka Front Management Area, has low development potential, and from public comments, the area will not be managed specifically for wilderness characteristics. Upon development of the preferred alternative for the Bighorn Basin RMP revision, the entire will be within the Absaroka Front Master Leasing Plan, which provides for stipulations that will sustain wildlife, recreation related resources, and visual resources which will directly benefit wilderness characteristics. Current and proposed management prescriptions from other resources management prescriptions will benefit wilderness characteristics.</p>

Table S-1. Rationale for Not Managing Lands with Wilderness Characteristics for Naturalness, Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude, and Primitive and Unconfined Recreation, by Field Office and Unit (Continued)

Unit Containing Wilderness Characteristics	Rationale
1535 PR	<p>It is recommended not to manage for wilderness characteristics within the area. 16% of the area contains Gypsum, as well as 0.6% sand and gravel, 1.2 % limestone. Potential gypsum claims exist because Gypsum (and sand and gravel) are limited but are available.</p> <p>However, the area is identified as big game and sage grouse habitat. Oil and gas restraints encompass the entire area with TLS and CSU stipulations to address wildlife resources. Upon development of the preferred alternative for the Bighorn Basin RMP revision, the entire will be within the Bighorn Master Leasing Plan, which provides for stipulations that will sustain wildlife, recreation, and visual resources which will directly benefit wilderness characteristics.</p>
568 TS	<p>7% of the area has been identified as Commercial Forest Land, 46% contains Limestone, and 8% Phosphate. The area has terrain which limits the development potential. Timber and limestone development are low and not foreseeable for the area.</p> <p>The only stand of Ponderosa Pine in the Grass Creek Resources Area (T. Stephens), Owl Creek ACEC, Absaroka Front Management Area (Draft EIS), 81% unavailable to leasing, .02% NSO, 14% CSU.</p> <p>Because of the very low potential for development, the area is managed as the Owl Creek ACEC, and 81% is unavailable. Upon development of the preferred alternative for the Bighorn Basin RMP revision, the entire will be within the Absaroka Front Master Leasing Plan, which provides for stipulations that will sustain wildlife, recreation related resources, and visual resources which will directly benefit wilderness characteristics. Current and proposed management prescriptions from other resources management prescriptions will benefit wilderness characteristics.</p>
069 JW	<p>33% of the area contains Gypsum, and 2% Uranium, 4% Limestone. A gravel pit is located approx. 1 mile to the northwest.</p> <p>The terrain of the area makes the development unlikely. There are many places located in the area that have a much better potential for mineral development.</p> <p>96% of the area is under a CSU. CSU and TLS stipulations cover the entire area, which will adequately and indirectly maintain wilderness characteristics. Specific management for wilderness characteristics are not necessary.</p>
130 JW	<p>No extractive resources identified as available, the terrain will make any resource difficult to access. CSU (50%) and TLS stipulations cover the entire area, which will adequately and indirectly maintain wilderness characteristics. Specific management for wilderness characteristics are not necessary.</p>
Medicine Lodge CP Subunit A and B (Formerly Medicine Lodge North CP)	<p>Some potential exists for commercial timber, but remains low due to the ACEC and the emphasis on maintaining wildlife habitat. The difficult terrain and the Spanish Point Karst ACEC limit the availability of the resources.</p> <p>Most of the area overlaps with the Spanish Point Karst ACEC. In addition, groundwater recharge withdrawal, seasonal closure for wildlife, and archaeological resources requires management prescriptions which benefits wilderness characteristics. Due to existing ACEC management prescriptions, and overlapping TLS wildlife stipulations and CSU stipulations to maintain recreational resources, management to sustain or enhance wilderness characteristics within the area is not necessary. Wilderness characteristics will be adequately managed for within the area. In addition, upon development of the preferred alternative for the Bighorn Basin RMP revision, the entire will be within the Bighorn Master Leasing Plan, which provides for stipulations that will sustain wildlife, recreation, and visual resources which will directly benefit wilderness characteristics.</p>

Table S-1. Rationale for Not Managing Lands with Wilderness Characteristics for Naturalness, Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude, and Primitive and Unconfined Recreation, by Field Office and Unit (Continued)

Unit Containing Wilderness Characteristics	Rationale
Paintrock CP	Paint Rock area is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The area is one of the few areas that exposes the Hyattville member of Ten Sleep Sandstone making the area geologically unique. Overlapping CSU (to address recreational, cultural, and hydrological resources) and TLS stipulations (wildlife resources) cover the entire area, which will adequately and indirectly maintain wilderness characteristics. Upon development of the preferred alternative for the Bighorn Basin RMP revision, the entire will be within the Bighorn Master Leasing Plan, which provides for stipulations that will sustain wildlife, recreation, and visual resources which will directly benefit wilderness characteristics. Specific management for wilderness characteristics are not necessary.
Sheep Mountain CP	The area is adjacent to Sheep Mountain WSA. The northern portion of the area is within the 15-Mile MLP, and TLS stipulations to address wildlife resources underlay the area. These management prescriptions will benefit and aid in sustaining wilderness characteristics. Upon development of the preferred alternative for the Bighorn Basin RMP revision, some of the area will be within the 15-Mile Master Leasing Plan, which provides for stipulations that will sustain soil and visual resources which will directly benefit wilderness characteristics.
669 AK	Upon development of the preferred alternative for the Bighorn Basin RMP revision, nearly the entire area is within the 15-Mile MLP, which stipulations are present to protect and manage for recreational resources, specific CSU stipulations to address recreation management, as well as overlapping TLS stipulations to address wildlife resources. These management prescriptions will benefit wilderness characteristics.
639 AK	Upon development of the preferred alternative for the Bighorn Basin RMP revision, the entire area will be within the 15-Mile Master Leasing Plan, which provides for stipulations that will sustain soil and visual resources which will directly benefit wilderness characteristics. In addition, CSU stipulations specific for recreation management, as well as overlapping TLS stipulations to address wildlife resources will further benefit wilderness characteristics. These management prescriptions will indirectly benefit wilderness characteristics.
31 PR	100% of the area is within a CSU. Because of the high potential for commercial harvest of timber, it is recommended not to manage for wilderness characteristics. Upon development of the preferred alternative for the Bighorn Basin RMP revision, the entire will be within the Bighorn Master Leasing Plan, which provides for stipulations that will sustain wildlife, recreation, and visual resources which will directly benefit wilderness characteristics.
508 AK	69.11% leased for oil and gas; 12% of area contains sand and gravel, and active leases existing in the area. It is recommended to not manage for wilderness characteristics because of the existing leases for oil and gas. Upon development of the preferred alternative for the Bighorn Basin RMP revision, nearly the entire area will be within the 15-Mile Master Leasing Plan, which provides for stipulations that will sustain soil and visual resources which will directly benefit wilderness characteristics.
508 Tristate Gooseberry N Platte	45.89% of the area is leased for oil and gas, and the potential for mineral development exists judging by the amount of leases in the area. Recommended that managing the area for wilderness characteristics will conflict with current land uses. Upon development of the preferred alternative for the Bighorn Basin RMP revision, the entire area will be within the 15-Mile Master Leasing Plan, which provides for stipulations that will sustain soil and visual resources which will directly benefit wilderness characteristics.
509 AK Dorsey Ck	The area has a high potential of oil and gas development (81% of area is under a lease) Recommended that managing the area for wilderness characteristics will conflict with current land uses. Upon development of the preferred alternative for the Bighorn Basin RMP revision, the entire area will be within the 15-Mile Master Leasing Plan, which provides for stipulations that will sustain soil and visual resources which will directly benefit wilderness characteristics.

Table S-1. Rationale for Not Managing Lands with Wilderness Characteristics for Naturalness, Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude, and Primitive and Unconfined Recreation, by Field Office and Unit (Continued)

Unit Containing Wilderness Characteristics	Rationale
516 DH	69% of the area has been identified as Commercial Forest Land, 74% contains uranium; potential for timber harvest is high; the potential for uranium development is low. It is recommended not to manage to sustain the wilderness characteristics in the area due to the commercial harvest of timber. Upon development of the preferred alternative for the Bighorn Basin RMP revision, the entire will be within the Absaroka Front Master Leasing Plan, which provides for stipulations that will sustain wildlife, recreation related resources, and visual resources which will directly benefit wilderness characteristics.
577 AK	92.68% of the area is currently under a lease for oil and gas; with the high potential for oil and gas extraction. It is recommended not to manage to sustain the wilderness characteristics in the area due to the active leases and high potential for extraction.
622 AK	Potential for oil and gas extraction is present (41.84% under a lease for oil and gas), as well as coal resources in the area. It is recommended not to manage to sustain the wilderness characteristics in the area due to the active leases and high potential for extraction, and the presence of other resources.
651 AK	There is the high potential for oil and gas extraction (61.63% leased for oil and gas), which managing the area to sustain wilderness characteristics would conflict with current land uses. Upon development of the preferred alternative for the Bighorn Basin RMP revision, the entire area will be within the 15-Mile Master Leasing Plan, which provides for stipulations that will sustain soil and visual resources which will directly benefit wilderness characteristics.
665 CW	The development potential exists in the area (12.4% leased for oil and gas). There are existing stipulations (6 % NSO, 50% CSU) which aids wilderness characteristics, but, it is recommended that managing for wilderness characteristics in the area will conflict with current land uses, and conflict with the potential of future mineral extraction.
668 AK	Do not manage for wilderness characteristics in the area because the majority of area (98%) is under lease. Upon development of the preferred alternative for the Bighorn Basin RMP revision, the majority of the area will be within the 15-Mile Master Leasing Plan, which provides for stipulations that will sustain soil and visual resources which will directly benefit wilderness characteristics.
676 AK, PR	The area currently has stipulations which will assist in managing for wilderness characteristics (9% NSO, 40% CSU). It is recommended not to manage for wilderness characteristics due to the potential for oil and gas extraction (32% of the area is leased). Upon development of the preferred alternative for the Bighorn Basin RMP revision, the entire area will be within the 15-Mile Master Leasing Plan, which provides for stipulations that will sustain soil and visual resources which will directly benefit wilderness characteristics.
Alkali Creek NW CP	The area is 100% CSU, high potential for archaeological resources, which specific resource management will benefit wilderness characteristics. Upon development of the preferred alternative for the Bighorn Basin RMP revision, the entire will be within the Bighorn Master Leasing Plan, which provides for stipulations that will sustain wildlife, recreation, and visual resources which will directly benefit wilderness characteristics.
Bobcat Draw South II CP	Do Not manage the area for wilderness characteristics as it conflicts with oil and gas lease and potential for oil shale development. In addition, 66% of the area is within a CSU stipulation, which will benefit wilderness characteristics. Upon development of the preferred alternative for the Bighorn Basin RMP revision, the majority area will be within the 15-Mile Master Leasing Plan, which provides for stipulations that will sustain soil and visual resources which will directly benefit wilderness characteristics.
Bobcat Draw West CP	It is not recommended to manage for wilderness characteristics in the area due to the current land uses (72% leased for oil and gas). Some characteristics will benefit from CSU stipulations within the area. Upon development of the preferred alternative for the Bighorn Basin RMP revision, the entire area will be within the 15-Mile Master Leasing Plan, which provides for stipulations that will sustain soil and visual resources which will directly benefit wilderness characteristics.

Table S-1. Rationale for Not Managing Lands with Wilderness Characteristics for Naturalness, Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude, and Primitive and Unconfined Recreation, by Field Office and Unit (Continued)

Unit Containing Wilderness Characteristics	Rationale
Honeycombs 164 CP	99% of the area is identified as containing Coal, with very low potential for development; the area is could have potential for exploration of coal bed methane. It is not recommended to manage for wilderness characteristics within the areas due to the potential for resource development.
Honeycombs NW 107 CP	70% of the area is identified as containing Coal, very low potential for development; the area could have potential for exploration of coal bed methane. It is not recommended to manage for wilderness characteristics within the areas due to the potential for resource development.
Honeycombs S CP	98% of the area is identified as containing Coal, which the potential to extract coal bed methane exists, as well as the oil and gas leases within the area. It is not recommended to manage for wilderness characteristics within the areas due to the potential for resource development.
Red Butte North CP	Do not manage for wilderness characteristics in the area because the majority of area (83%) is under lease. Upon development of the preferred alternative for the Bighorn Basin RMP revision, the majority of the area will be within the 15-Mile Master Leasing Plan, which provides for stipulations that will sustain soil and visual resources which will directly benefit wilderness characteristics.
Bobcat Draw South CP	It is not recommended to manage for wilderness characteristics due to the potential for oil shale development, and existing oil and gas leases. 90% of the area is under CSU stipulations to manage for paleontological and archaeological resources, which will benefit wilderness characteristics.
652 Upper, Lower AK	It is not recommended to manage for wilderness characteristics due to existing oil and gas leases. In addition, 53% of the area is under CSU stipulations, as well as other resources (wild horse HMA, sensitive watershed, paleo resources) which those resources management prescriptions will benefit wilderness characteristics. Upon development of the preferred alternative for the Bighorn Basin RMP revision, the entire area will be within the 15-Mile Master Leasing Plan, which provides for stipulations that will sustain soil and visual resources which will directly benefit wilderness characteristics.
626 AK	The land status within the area will conflict with effective management prescriptions to maintain wilderness characteristics. NSO and CSU stipulations (14% and 33% respectively) within the area will benefit wilderness characteristics. Upon development of the preferred alternative for the Bighorn Basin RMP revision, the majority of the area will be within the 15-Mile Master Leasing Plan, which provides for stipulations that will sustain soil and visual resources which will directly benefit wilderness characteristics.
509 AK	Do not manage for wilderness characteristics due to the sand and gravel pits and the conflicts with land status within the area. In addition, Wild Horse management prescriptions may indirectly benefit some of the wilderness characteristics within the area (i.e., management actions that will maintain or enhance conformance with the Wyoming Standards for Healthy Rangelands, and not actively promoting the 15-Mile HMA and maintaining remote natural characteristics). Upon development of the preferred alternative for the Bighorn Basin RMP revision, the majority of the area will be within the 15-Mile Master Leasing Plan, which provides for stipulations that will sustain soil and visual resources which will directly benefit wilderness characteristics.
005 PR	The surrounding private lands may be developed for residential, or 2 nd homes, therefore easements are more likely to be sought after and further developed; this is similar to what is being observed along the Hyattville Logging Road. Managing for wilderness characteristics may increase landowner conflicts and possible future easements. There are also commercial timber resources which may be recovered. In addition, NSO and CSU stipulations (2% and 80% of the area respectively) will benefit wilderness characteristics. Upon development of the preferred alternative for the Bighorn Basin RMP revision, the entire will be within the Bighorn Master Leasing Plan, which provides for stipulations that will sustain wildlife, recreation, and visual resources which will directly benefit wilderness characteristics.

Table S-1. Rationale for Not Managing Lands with Wilderness Characteristics for Naturalness, Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude, and Primitive and Unconfined Recreation, by Field Office and Unit (Continued)

Unit Containing Wilderness Characteristics	Rationale
Cody Field Office	
Carter Mountain	The area has an irregular land pattern and contains many inholdings. Secondary vehicle routes provide access to the nearest inholdings. Management actions for the Carter Mountain ACEC and the Absaroka Front SMA help protect naturalness. There are no current oil and gas leases in the area. Upon development of the preferred alternative for the Bighorn Basin RMP revision, the entire will be within the Absaroka Front Master Leasing Plan, which provides for stipulations that will sustain wildlife, recreation related resources, and visual resources which will directly benefit wilderness characteristics.
Painted Hills	Much of the area lies within the Sheep Mountain Anticline ACEC. Many of the management actions for the ACEC help protect naturalness.
Trout Creek	The area lies within the Craig Thomas Little Mountain SMA and the management actions for that area help protect naturalness. Upon development of the preferred alternative for the Bighorn Basin RMP revision, the entire area will be within the Bighorn Master Leasing Plan, which provides for stipulations that will sustain wildlife, recreation, and visual resources which will directly benefit wilderness characteristics.
Sheep Mountain	Management actions for the proposed Sheep Mountain ACEC and the Absaroka front SMA subsequently continue to maintain the integrity of naturalness. There are no current oil and gas leases in the area. A large parcel of private land owned by The Nature Conservancy is being held for possible acquisition by BLM. Nearly all of this land lies on top of the mountain. There is a small parcel on the southwest side of the area that is also part of the proposal. Private and state lands nearly surround the area, and in addition, the boundary is highly irregular, which may prove difficult or inefficient to manage solely for wilderness characteristics. Upon development of the preferred alternative for the Bighorn Basin RMP revision, the entire will be within the Absaroka Front Master Leasing Plan, which provides for stipulations that will sustain wildlife, recreation related resources, and visual resources which will directly benefit wilderness characteristics.
Rattlesnake Mountain	Area is highly developed. Rattlesnake Road, a dominant feature in the landscape, is the main access route into BLM and many of the spur routes within Rattlesnake Mountain are used primarily for logging and wood cutting activities. Managing for wilderness characteristics in this area will compromise these activities. Upon development of the preferred alternative for the Bighorn Basin RMP revision, the entire will be within the Absaroka Front Master Leasing Plan, which provides for stipulations that will sustain wildlife, recreation related resources, and visual resources which will directly benefit wilderness characteristics.
Cedar Ridge	Do not manage for wilderness characteristics in the area due to current oil and gas activity where approximately 68% of the area is under lease. Managing to sustain wilderness characteristics will conflict with current land uses.
Little Dry Creek	Do not manage for wilderness characteristics in the area because the majority of area (74%) is under lease, and new wells with associated development are currently proposed. Managing to sustain wilderness characteristics will conflict with current land uses.
North YU Bench	Do not manage for wilderness characteristics in the area because the majority of area (approximately 61%) is under lease. Managing to sustain wilderness characteristics will conflict with current land uses.
Crystal Creek	There is mineral potential (bentonite) present within the area, and mining claims are heading towards the interior of the area. Managing for wilderness characteristics will conflict with current and future land uses. Upon development of the preferred alternative for the Bighorn Basin RMP revision, the entire will be within the Bighorn Master Leasing Plan, which provides for stipulations that will sustain wildlife, recreation, and visual resources which will directly benefit wilderness characteristics.

Table S-1. Rationale for Not Managing Lands with Wilderness Characteristics for Naturalness, Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude, and Primitive and Unconfined Recreation, by Field Office and Unit (Continued)

Unit Containing Wilderness Characteristics	Rationale
Rough Gulch	64% of the area is covered by oil and gas leases. One of the proposed PETM ACEC units lies within a portion of the area. Some of the management actions for the ACEC help protect naturalness. The area is highly valued for its scenery and recreational opportunities (motorized and non-motorized). The area will be designated as part of the McCullough Peaks Special Recreation Management Area, management actions for the SRMA would help protect naturalness (NSO).
Whistle Creek	Portions of the area, approximately 33% of the area, contain oil and gas leases. The area has high potential for oil and gas and moderate to high development potential. The area is highly valued for its scenery and recreational opportunities (motorized and non-motorized). The area will be designated as part of the McCullough Peaks Special Recreation Management Area, management actions for the SRMA would help protect naturalness (NSO).
Coon Creek	83% of the area is covered by oil and gas leases. A portion of the area lies within one of the proposed PETM ACEC parcels, which management actions will benefit wilderness characteristics.
Bald Ridge	Management actions for the ACEC, and Absaroka Front SMA help protect naturalness. The entire area is within the Absaroka Front Management Area, MLP, and nearly the entire area within the Clarks Fork ACEC. These protective management layers will benefit the wilderness characteristics.